IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:		
Christian BUSSON et al.	:		
Serial No.: Not yet assigned	:	Group Art Unit:	Not yet assigned
Filed: December 7, 2000	:	Examiner:	Not yet assigned

For: DEVICE FOR CONNECTING A PIPE THAT IS INTENDED FOR HEATING AND/OR COOLING A PRESSURIZED REACTOR AND SAID REACTOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) Device according to claim [1 or] 2, wherein it comprises at least one means for guiding pipe (4) relative to walls (11) or (11) and (12) that are located on both sides of pipe (4).

5. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 2, wherein it comprises at least two guiding means of pipe (4).

7. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 3 to] claim 6, wherein the guiding means that is located in the upper portion of pipe (4) comprises a recess that is intended to accommodate at least one bearing (29).

8. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 7, wherein it comprises mechanical means that make it possible to protect bellows (25) from a pressure variation.

12. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 11, wherein the reactor comprises a system for heating pipe (4) that is a radiant pipe that is fed via a burner comprising a jacket (17) that is connected in an essentially sealed manner to jacket (2a) of the reactor, ensuring the confinement of bellows (25) relative to the outside of said reactor.

13. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 12, wherein bellows (25) is located above flange (28) in axial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

14. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 12, wherein bellows (25) is located below flange (28) in axial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

15. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 12, wherein bellows (25) is located above or below flange (28) in radial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

16. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 15, wherein in its lower portion, pipe (4) comprises a restricted section such that its diameter is then from about 10% to about 99% of the diameter of said pipe above said restriction.

18. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 17, wherein pipe (4) is a pipe that consists of ceramic material, and walls (11) and (12) are made of refractory material.

19. (Amended) Device according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 18, wherein pipe (4) and walls (11) and (12) are made of zirconia or silicon carbide and preferably silicon carbide.

Please add the following new claims:

--20. Device according to claim 1, wherein it comprises at least one means for guiding pipe (4) relative to walls (11) or (11) and (12) that are located on both sides of pipe (4).

21. Device according to claim 1, wherein it comprises at least two guiding means of pipe (4).

22. Device according to claim 3, wherein the guiding means that is located in the upper portion of pipe (4) comprises a recess that is intended to accommodate at least one bearing (29).

23. Device according to claim 1, wherein it comprises mechanical means that make it possible to protect bellows (25) from a pressure variation.

24. Device according to claim 1, wherein the reactor comprises a system for heating pipe (4) that is a radiant pipe that is fed via a burner comprising a jacket (17) that is connected in an essentially sealed manner to jacket (2a) of the reactor, ensuring the confinement of bellows (25) relative to the outside of said reactor.

25. Device according to claim 1, wherein bellows (25) is located above flange (28) in axial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

26. Device according to claim 1, wherein bellows (25) is located below flange (28) in axial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

27. Device according to claim 1, wherein bellows (25) is located above or below flange (28) in radial position relative to the axis of pipe (4).

28. Device according to claim 1, wherein in its lower portion, pipe (4) comprises a restricted section such that its diameter is then from about 10% to about 99% of the diameter of said pipe above said restriction.

29. Device according to claim 1, wherein pipe (4) is a pipe that consists of ceramic material, and the walls (11) and (12) are made of refractory material.

30. Device according to claim 1, wherein pipe (4) and walls (11) and (12) are made of zirconia or silicon carbide and preferably silicon carbide. --

REMARKS

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to remove the multiply dependent claims and avoid the fee associated therewith. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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